

Message Text

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61

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-20 RSC-01 SAJ-01

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R 111620Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 746

INFO AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 4413

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PO

SUBJ: CDS REPS VISIT LISBON AMBASSADORS WITH STORY OF POSSIBLE
PCP ATTEMPT TO GET PARTY BANNED

REF: LISBON 4372

1. EVENING OF OCTOBER 9 AMBASSADOR CALLED ON AT HIS RESIDENCE BY TWO REPRESENTATIVES OF MODERATE CONSERVATIVE PARTIDO CENTRO DEMOCRATICO SOCIAL (CDS), VALENTIM XAVIER PINTADO (MANAGING DIRECTOR OF BANCO PORTUGUES DO ATLANTICO) AND PAULO LOWNDES MARQUES, A LAWYER. THE TWO VISITORS TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT THEY WERE CONTACTING A NUMBER OF AMBASSADORS IN LISBON IN ORDER TO TELL THEM OF A TIP THE CDS HAD RECEIVED TO THE EFFECT THAT THE COMMUNIST PARTY WOULD TRY TO PLANT WEAPONS IN THE CDS HEADQUARTERS AND THEN INFORM THE ARMED FORCES, WHO WOULD RAID THE CDS, DISCOVER THE ARMS, AND CLOSE DOWN THE PARTY.

2. PURPOSE OF INFORMING FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS OF THIS TIP WAS SO THAT IF SUCH A SCENARIO WERE TO OCCUR FOREIGN POWERS WOULD KNOW WHAT HAD REALLY HAPPENED. THE VISITORS MADE NO REQUESTS OF THE AMBASSADOR, AND LEFT THE RESIDENCE AFTER ABOUT 15 MINUTES.

3. COMMENT: THE CDS BELIEVES THAT THE PRESS IS HOSTILE
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TO IT AND THAT WERE ARMS "FOUND" ON ITS PREMISES IT WOULD

NOT BE ABLE TO MAKE ITS SIDE OF THE STORY KNOWN. ALTHOUGH IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE PCP MIGHT TRY AN ARMS PLANT AT THE CDS HEADQUARTERS, WE ON THE WHOLE DOUBT THE CHARGE, WHICH WAS PRINTED IN A CDS COMMUNIQUE OCTOBER 11 IN DIARIO DE NOTICIAS. THE COMMUNISTS WOULD STAND TO LOSE A GREAT DEAL IF CAUGHT IN THE ACT OF PLANTING ARMS, AND THE PARTY HAS GUARDS FULL TIME AT THE SOLE ENTRANCE TO THEIR HEADQUARTERS. MOST PROBABLY THE VISITS TO THE RESPECTIVE AMBASSADORS ARE RELATED TO THE PARTY PLAN MENTIONED IN REFTEL TO "TELL IT LIKE IT IS," I.E., TO CONDUCT A PROPAGANDA OFFENSIVE OF THEIR OWN AGAINST THE DANGERS OF EXTREMISTS IN PORTUGAL. SCOTT

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